

What is claimed is:

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1. A flash photography system having a camera body,
a main flash device and at least one sub-flash device,
wherein said main flash device emits at least one low flash
5 emission serving as a main-flash emission command signal
to transmit said main-flash emission command signal to said
at least one sub-flash device, said at least one sub-flash
device emitting a flash emission in accordance with said
main-flash emission command signal, said flash photography
10 system comprising:

a designating device for designating a flash emission
mode of a main-flash emission; and

a command device which activates said main flash
device to emit said at least one low flash emission serving
15 as said main-flash emission command signal to transmit said
main-flash emission command signal to said at least one
sub-flash device in a manner corresponding to the
designated flash emission mode.

2. The flash photography system according to claim
20 1, wherein said main flash device comprises a built-in
flash of said camera body.

3. The flash photography system according to claim
1, wherein said main flash device comprises an external
flash device which is electrically connected to said camera
25 body.

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4. The flash photography system according to claim 1, wherein said sub-flash device comprises a slave flash unit which is controlled by said main flash device by wireless control.

5 5. The flash photography system according to claim 1, wherein said designating device and said command device are incorporated in said main flash device.

6. The flash photography system according to claim 1, wherein said designating device and said command device
10 are incorporated in said camera body.

7. The flash photography system according to claim 1, wherein said flash emission mode comprises a uniform flash emission mode in which said at least one sub-flash device is driven to emit a rapid series of short flash
15 pulses to thereby emit said main flash emission with a substantially uniform intensity for a given period of time;

wherein, in the case where said uniform flash emission mode is designated by said designating device, said command device activates said main flash device to
20 emit at least two low flash emissions successively serving as said main-flash emission command signal; and

wherein a time interval between two low flash emissions of said at least two low flash emissions designates a duration of time of said main flash emission
25 in said uniform flash emission mode.

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8. The flash photography system according to claim 1, wherein said flash emission mode comprises a normal flash mode in which said at least one sub-flash device is driven to emit a single flash emission to thereby emit said main flash emission; and

wherein said command device activates said main flash device to emit a single low flash emission serving as said main-flash emission command signal in the case where said normal flash mode is designated by said designating device.

9. The flash photography system according to claim 1, wherein said command device activates said main flash device to transmit said main-flash emission command signal to said at least one sub-flash device after activating said main flash device to emit another at least one low flash emission to transmit another command signal, corresponding to the flash emission mode designated by said designating device, to said at least one sub-flash device;

wherein each said at least one sub-flash device comprises:

a receiver which receives signals which are transmitted from said command device;

a setting device which sets a flash emission mode corresponding said another command signal received by said receiver; and

a controller which activates said at least one

sub-flash device to emit said main flash emission in said flash emission mode set by said setting device upon said receiver receiving said main-flash emission command signal which corresponds to said flash emission mode set by said
5 setting device.

10. The flash photography system according to claim 9, wherein said command device activates said main flash device to transmit said pre-flash emission command signal, a light-magnification command signal, and said main-flash
10 emission command signal to said at least one sub-flash device successively in that order to control a flash emission of said at least one sub-flash device;

wherein said pre-flash emission command signal commands said at least one sub-flash device to start
15 emitting a preliminary flash emission before said main flash emission; and

wherein said light-magnification command signal specifies a light amount of said main flash emission of said at least one sub-flash device.

20 11. The flash photography system according to claim 10, wherein said pre-flash emission command signal includes said another command signal.

12. The flash photography system according to claim 5, wherein said main flash device comprises a first CPU
25 which can have data communication with a second CPU

provided in said camera body, said first CPU serving as said command device.

13. The flash photography system according to claim 6, wherein said camera body comprises a first CPU which can
5 have data communication with a second CPU provided in said main flash device, said first CPU serving as said command device.

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FOOTNOTES 091901 8025560